

From: [Scott Jones](#)
To: [Stokes, Bob](#); cbohanan@galvbay.org; [Katie McCann](#); [Michael Ruger](#); [Sarah Davis](#); michael.tennant@dshs.state.tx.us; David.Rivera@dshs.state.tx.us; [Jennifer Ronk](#); [Birnur Guven](#); [Miller, Gary](#); [Walters, Donn](#); Tina.walker@dshs.state.tx.us; Richard.Beauchamp@dshs.state.tx.us; crystal.taylor@tceq.texas.gov; [Leos, Valmichael](#); [Tzhone, Stephen](#)
Subject: FW: sjones@galvbay.org has shared something with you (article pasted here)
Date: Wednesday, August 07, 2013 4:07:26 PM

Article pasted here so you do not have to subscribe to read it...

Posted: Tuesday, August 6, 2013 12:00 am

By Mark Fleming mark.fleming@baytownsun.com | [0 comments](#)

Consumption advisories for spotted seatrout have been removed for much of Galveston and Trinity bays, but the Texas Department of State Health Services still recommends limiting or avoiding consumption of fish and crabs from the Houston Ship Channel, the San Jacinto River and the upper part of Galveston Bay.

"There is still much work to be done to further reduce risks from the consumption of seafood in areas of the bay system," according to a statement from the Galveston Bay Foundation, an organization created in 1987 for advocacy, conservation, education and recreation related to the Galveston Bay system.

The foundation, though, did say it welcomed the positive news that recent state testing shows that dioxin and PCBs in spotted seatrout have declined to acceptable levels in much of the bay system.

The improvement applies to Galveston Bay south of a line from Red Bluff to the Five-Mile Cut Marker to Texas Point. (Red Bluff is just south of the Port of Houston Bayport facility, and Texas Point is near the southern tip of Beach City.)

Dioxin and PCBs remain a problem in the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay as "legacy pollutants." While the production of both classes of pollutants has been outlawed for many years, both stay in the environment for many years and tend to accumulate in species of fish that have high lipid fat levels, according to the state health department. Eating contaminated fish can lead to the toxins accumulating in the human body as well.

For the last several years the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency and others have focused attention on the San Jacinto Waste Pits, a former landfill area, now submerged, just north of the Interstate 10 San Jacinto River Bridge. Officials say temporary measures to contain dioxins in those pits have successfully stopped leakage of additional dioxin into the river, but they are still working on a permanent resolution.

Under the current advisory:

- Children under 12 and women of childbearing age should not consume any fish or blue crab from the Houston Ship Channel or from the San Jacinto River between the Lake Houston Dam and the Fred Hartman Bridge. Other persons should limit consumption to one serving a month. Dioxins, PCBs and pesticides exceed state standards.
- The same standard applies to spotted seatrout and blue crab anywhere above the Red Bluff-Houston Point line.
- The same standard applies to catfish from anywhere in the Galveston Bay system.

Other than the very upper part of the bay, where the advisory applies to all species, according to the state health department, "At this time, it is safe to consume shrimp and other seafood not listed in the advisories from the Galveston Bay Estuary."

Hello Folks-

See link to a August 6th article by Mark Fleming of Baytown Sun on the changes to seafood advisories and a reference to the SJRWP as a source of dioxin to the bay system. It was based on TDSHS's [June 26th](#) and [GBF's July 1](#) press releases.

I think he did a pretty good job, other than the statement that the production of dioxin has been outlawed (since it is not intentional produced and is instead a byproduct of multiple processes). And the statement that advisory applies to "all species" in the "very upper part of the bay" is not accurate, but I know what he was trying to say.

I will contact him about these minor issues at this teachable moment.

Scott

From: sjones@addthis.com [mailto:sjones@addthis.com] **On Behalf Of** sjones@galvbay.org
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2013 11:07 AM
To: sjones@galvbay.org
Subject: sjones@galvbay.org has shared something with you

August 6th Baytown Sun article.

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